

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 32 are pending. In view of the remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

CLAIMS 27 - 31

On page 3 the Office Action rejects claims 27 - 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0147801 to Gullotta et al. (hereafter Gullotta) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0047275 to Terretta (hereafter Terretta). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 27

Considering claim 27, the Office Action asserts that Gullotta discloses all the features recited therein except that Gullotta “does not explicitly disclose operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameters are specified; and if all required plug-in parameters are specified operation the authorization [sic] in an execute mode.” However, the Office Action asserts that Terretta discloses operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameters are specified.

Gullotta is directed to a system that provides network users with certain resources, such as e-mail and voice mail accounts, and telephones and pagers, based on the needs or roles of those users.

Terretta is directed to a system for registering and delivering authenticated content, such as pay-pre-view programming, over a computer network. In operation, Terretta’s system starts when a user enters a user name and password, and forwards the information for evaluation and verification. In return, the user’s current registration is returned to the user’s computer, and specifically to an authentication plug-in. See page 4, paragraph 38. The plug-in determines if the user is already receiving content, and if not, verifies the password is correct and that the user is part of a group having access to the requested content. If the user is already viewing the requested content, the user’s password may have been compromised. If the user is not viewing the requested content, streaming of the content to the user is authorized. See page 4, paragraphs 39 and 40. As Terretta’s disclosure makes clear, the system is designed to ensure “one ticket, one seat.” See page 2, paragraph 22. Also clear is that the above description of **Terretta’s system refers to operation of the plug-in in an**

execute mode - that is, the plug-in simply takes the password information, verifies that the password is correct, and then authorizes delivery of the content. There is nothing in paragraphs 38 - 40, or for that matter, in any other part of Terretta, that refers to a check mode for the plug-in that is separate from the execute mode of the plug-in. The Examiner has apparently equated execution of Terretta's plug-in's authentication routine (i.e., the execute mode), with the claimed check mode. Further, the Examiner states: "check mode is interpreted as checking if the parameters required for the given plug-in have been specified." However, Terretta does not disclose or suggest anywhere the afore-mentioned feature. Simply put, Terretta does not disclose or suggest a check mode for operating the authorization plug-in, and no amount of contortion can make Terratta's system anticipate the claimed invention.

In contrast to Gullotta and Terretta, claim 27 recites "operating an authorization plug-in in a check mode, comprising determining if all required plug-in parameter are specified." Using a separate check mode allows the computer system implementing the plug-in to send an error message to the user should any required plug-in parameters be missing, before the plug-in's actual authentication/authorization routine executes. Because Gullotta and Terretta, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest all the features of claim 27, claim 27 is patentable.

Claims 28 - 31 depend from patentable claim 27, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 28 - 31 are also patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 27 - 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 1 - 3, 6 - 8, AND 10 - 12

On page 6 the Office Action rejects claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, and 10 - 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,842,903 to Weschler (hereafter Weschler) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0016915 to Kumazawa et al. (hereafter Kumazawa). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1

Considering claim 1, the Office Action asserts, *inter alia*, that Weschler discloses the claimed features "if the computer operation requires at least one plug-in, filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation," and "determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one

plug-in have been specified.” In support of its assertion, the Office Action cites Weschler at column 8, lines 7-9 and lines 11-14.

The Office Action then admits that Weschler does not disclose other features of claim 1, specifically terminating the at least one plug-in with failure of not all the required plug-in parameters have been specified; executing the at least one plug-in if all the required plug-in parameters have been specified; and executing the computer operation of the at least one plug-in terminates with success, wherein the at least one plug-in regulates execution of the computer program. However, the Office Action asserts that Kumazawa discloses these elements missing from Weschler, and contends that it would have been obvious to combine Weschler and Kumazawa to produce the invention recited in claim 1.

In responding to Applicant’s June 20, 2005 Office Action response, the Examiner asserts that Weschler “discloses plug-in modules like authorization and authentication module that are plugged in by specifying an initialization parameter. (Col. 8, lines 5 - 15; Col. 14, lines 1 - 14) ... [t]he parameters are specified beforehand and are determined before the plug-in is run, therefore, Weschler teaches determining and filtering required parameters.”

Weschler is directed to system that allows one application program running on a computer, which is part of a computer network, to access another application program on the same computer, or on another computer that is also part of the computer network.. More specifically, the system allows a computer program to access compatible plug-in features that reside at a location remote from the computer program. The plug-in features may reside on a computer other than the one hosting the computer program. Alternatively, the plug-in features may be stored on the same computer as the computer program. See column 4, lines 15 –39. The plug-in features allow the computer to expand it’s core functionality to include the functionality of the plug-in features. See column 6, lines 29 – 34. To access the plug-in features, a core profile engine 201 receives an initialization parameter from a corresponding plug-in module, where the initialization parameter is the storage location of the plug-n module. See column 8, lines 5 – 9. Thus, the only plug-in parameter disclosed or discussed in Weschler is the address of the plug-in. Moreover, Weschler does not disclose or suggest any step related to determining if “all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been satisfied.” Also, Weschler does not disclose or suggest “filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation.” Instead, Weschler’s system creates a runtime binding to the plug-in module, making “the program behavior embodied in the plug-in module ... available.” See column 8, lines 10 – 14. Thus, **in Weschler, there is no need to pass or filter parameters from the computer**

system (the core profile engine 201) to the plug-in module. Furthermore, Weschler does not disclose or suggest operating the at least one plug-in in a check mode and operating the at least one plug-in in an execute mode. That is, Weschler does not disclose or suggest a check routine in which all required plug-in parameters are verified before the plug-in executes.

In view of the above, Applicant contends that Weschler does not disclose or suggest at least two of the elements recited in claim 1. In addition, the Office Action admits that Weschler does not disclose other features of claim 1, but asserts that these features are taught by Kumazawa. However, Kumazawa at least does not disclose or suggest those elements noted above that the Applicant contends are missing from Weschler.

Kumazawa is directed to a system for authenticating data to be retrieved by a data terminal from a central server. An authentication routine SQ 15 is provided by plug-in Ptfcl. Operation of the authentication routine SQ 15 is described with respect to Figure 7. Specifically, the authentication routine SQ 15 determines if certain data, first locator Lent, is embedded as an electronic watermark with retrieved index data Didx as part of embedded graphic data Dbgpc. If the first locator Lent is not so embedded, the authentication routine SQ 15 terminates, and the data retrieval is prevented. See paragraph 41. If the first locator Lent is embedded, the first locator (now designated as Lwent) is compared to text locator Ltent. If Lwent and Ltent match, then the data retrieval is allowed. See paragraphs 42 and 43. Note that in the disclosed description of the authentication routine SQ 15, **Kumazawa's plug-in Ptfcl at no time checks to see if all the required plug-in parameters have been specified.** The only value tested by the plug-in Ptfcl is the first locator Lent. If the first locator Lent is not embedded, then the authentication routine SQ 15 terminates. Thus Kumazawa does not cure all the defects in Weschler, namely "determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been satisfied." Furthermore, Kumazawa does not disclose or suggest "filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation." That is, in Kumazawa's system, if a number of plug-in parameters have been specified, but only a subset of those parameters pertain to the authentication plug-in Ptfcl, there is no mechanism to "select" or "filter" out the non-pertinent parameters.

In his response to Applicant's June 20, 2005 Office Action response, the Examiner, in discussing Kumazawa and its supposed disclosure of determining if all required plug-in parameters have been satisfied, and filtering any required plug-in parameters, states "Kumazawa discloses an authorization plug-in that extracts data or other data designated by the information user that is embedded as watermark in order to determine if a data and its

linked content is authentic or not. Kumazawa discloses determining if the text locator matches with the watermark locator using the authentication plug-in. (Page 3, paragraphs 41 and 42; and Page 4, paragraph 43).”

In contrast to Weschler and Kumazawa, claim 1 recites if the computer operation requires at least one plug-in, filtering any required plug-in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation and determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in have been specified. The recited filtering step involves sifting through a number of parameters, and selecting those parameters that are required by the plug-in. Since these features are not disclosed or suggested by Weschler and Kumazawa, individually and in combination, claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 11

Considering claim 11, the Office Action asserts that Weschler discloses the claimed subject matter. To support this assertion, the Office Action cites to Weschler at column 14, lines 1 – 14. This portion of Weschler consists of one element of Weschler’s claim 16, followed by a wherein clause. The element is a pluggable interface that provides an initialization parameter. The wherein clause recites that the pluggable interface includes a service connector adapted to receive a service request and to return a reference. Nothing in the cited portions of Weschler’s claim 16 discloses or suggests determining whether all the plug-in parameters required by the notification plug-in are specified before the computer operation, and executing the notification plug-in after execution of the computer operation. Furthermore, no other part of Weschler discloses this feature, and Kumazawa does nothing to cure this defect in Weschler.

In contrast to Weschler (and Kumazawa), claim 11 recites “determining whether all of the plug-in parameters required by the notification plug-in are specified before the computer operation and executing the notification plug-in after execution of the computer operation, whereby the computer operation is not executed if the notification plug-in terminates with failure after determining whether all of the plug-in parameters are specified.” Since, as discussed above, this feature is not disclosed or suggested by Weschler and Kumazawa, individually and in combination, claim 11 is patentable. Claim 11 is also patentable because of its dependence on patentable claim 1.

Claim 2, 3, 6 – 8, 10, and 12 depend from patentable claim 1, and for this reason, and the additional features they recite, claims 2, 3, 6 – 8, 10, and 12 are also patentable.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 3, 6 – 8, and 10 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 4 AND 5

On page 12 the Office Action rejects claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,694,312 to Kobayashi et al. (hereafter Kobayashi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from patentable claim 1. For this reason, and the additional features they recite, claims 4 and 5 are also patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), is respectfully requested.

CLAIM 9

On page 11 the Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,857,067 to Edelman (hereafter Edelman). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 depends from patentable claim 1 and for this reason, and the additional features it recites, claim 1 is also patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 13 - 20, 23, 25, AND 26

On page 12 the Office Action rejects claims 13 - 20, 23, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Weschler in view of Kumazawa and further in view of Terretta. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13

Considering claim 13, the Office Action asserts that the combination of Weschler, Kumazawa, and Terretta teaches or suggests all that is recited, with Weschler and Kumazawa failing to disclose operating the plug-in in a check mode, but Terretta disclosing this feature. However, as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 27, Terretta does teach or suggest means for operating the at least one plug-in in a check mode.

In contrast to Weschler, Kumazawa, and Terretta, claim 13 recites means for operating the at least one plug-in in a check mode. Since Weschler, Kumazawa, and Terretta, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest this feature, claim 13 is patentable.

Claims 14 - 20, 23, 25, and 26 depend from patentable claim 13. For this reason and the additional features they recite, these claims are also patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13 - 20, 23, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 21 and 22

On page 17 the Office Action rejects claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kumazawa in view of Terretta and Kobayashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 21 and 22 depend from patentable claim 13, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 21 and 22 are patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CLAIM 24

On page 19 the Office Action rejects claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kumazawa in view of Terretta and Edelman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 24 depends from patentable claim 13, and for this reason and the additional features it recites, claim 24 is patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CLAIM 32

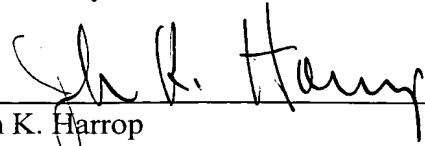
On page 20 the Office Action rejects claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gullotta in view of Terretta and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0174023 to Grey et al. (hereafter Grey). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 32 depends from patentable claim 27. For this reason and the additional features it recites, claim 32 is also patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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